

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on June 22, 2005, the Examiner affirmed Applicants' previous election to begin prosecution with claims 1-9, 15, and 17, and objected to the specification. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-9, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art ("APA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,275 to McQuistan et al. ("McQuistan").

Regarding the objections to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification to remove the uniform resource locators included in the as-filed application, as required by the Examiner. Applicants have also cancelled non-elected claims 10-14, 16, and 18, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and added new claims 19-22.

Regarding the section 103 rejections, Applicants maintain that the claims as filed are not rendered obvious by the combination of APA and McQuistan. In particular, the Examiner has not shown a teaching or suggestion in the references of every element of the claims, as required to support a proper rejection under section 103. M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (8th ed. 2001, 2nd revision May 2004).

For example, claim 1, as filed, recites a method including the step of passing a first object from a sender to a recipient with a descriptor of the class of the object and a handle corresponding to the descriptor. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that APA teaches "passing the object with a descriptor of the class." (6/22/05 Office Action, p. 3.) Even if this is true, the Examiner has not alleged that APA teaches or suggests passing an object with a descriptor and a handle corresponding to the descriptor, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the Examiner did not allege such a teaching or

suggestion in McQuistan. He instead stated that "McQuistan teaches using a handle to access the descriptor of the class." Thus, the Examiner has not shown a teaching or suggestion in the references of a method including the step of passing a first object from a sender to a recipient with a descriptor of the class of the object and a handle corresponding to the descriptor.

Further, the Examiner has not shown that the combination of APA and McQuistan teaches or suggests every element of the claims. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to combine the teaching in APA of passing an object and a descriptor of a class with the teaching in McQuistan of using a handle to access the descriptor of the class. (6/22/05 Office Action, p. 3.) Even if such a combination was obvious, which Applicants do not admit, this combination still would not teach or suggest passing a first object, a descriptor of the class of the object, and a handle corresponding to the descriptor from a sender to a recipient.

Independent claims 5, 7, 15, and 17 recite some similar features to claim 1, including the passing of an object with a descriptor and a handle corresponding to the descriptor from a sender to a recipient. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Examiner has not shown a teaching or suggestion of every element of claims 5, 7, 15, 17, and the claims that depend therefrom in order to properly support the section 103 rejections of these claims.

Although Applicants maintain that the claims as filed are not rendered obvious by APA and McQuistan, taken separately or together, Applicants have amended the claims to elucidate aspects of the invention, and Applicants submit that the claims as amended are also non-obvious over APA and McQuistan.

Claim 1, as amended, recites the steps of storing the handle and the descriptor received from the sender with the first object by the recipient and using the handle received by the recipient with the second object to access the descriptor received by the recipient with the first object. APA and McQuistan, taken together or separately, do not teach or suggest these claim elements.

As the Examiner noted in the Office Action, APA does not teach the use of a handle to access a descriptor of a class. (6/22/05 Office Action, p. 3.) Furthermore, McQuistan, taken alone or combined with APA, fails to cure this defect. McQuistan teaches a system including an interpreter to marshal and unmarshal arguments of remote procedure calls by using a function table and a descriptor table stored with the interpreter. (McQuistan, col. 5, ll. 7-11; Fig. 4.) The function table and the descriptor table are created by a compiler during the off-line building of an RPC system. (*Id.*, col. 50-66.) The function table of the reference includes function IDs and references to functions. The descriptor table of the reference includes function IDs, argument descriptions, and return code descriptions. (*Id.*, col. 6, ll. 27-32.) At runtime, the interpreter “utilizes the function ID...to retrieve an entry in the descriptor table having a description of the arguments.” (*Id.*, col. 9, ll. 15-18.)

It is not entirely clear what teaching in the reference the Examiner relies upon as teaching “the use of a handle to access the descriptor of the class,” but Applicants believe that he means to allege that the function ID of McQuistan teaches the claimed handle, and that accessing the descriptor table using the function ID teaches using the handle to access the descriptor of the class of an object. However, the reference does not permit such an interpretation.

First, the function ID and the descriptor table of the reference are not passed with an object from a sender to a recipient, as would be required to meet the elements of claim 1. Instead, during system creation, “[o]n the server side, [the compiler] creates a function table and a descriptor table that contain sufficient information for the server side interpreter to create an argument stack at runtime and to invoke a remote function.” (McQuistan, col. 5, ll. 62-66.) Thus, the descriptor table of the references is created at compile time, not passed with an object from the sender to the recipient.

Furthermore, the function ID in the reference is not used to access a descriptor received from the sender with a first object, as would be required to meet the elements of amended claim 1. Instead, during a remote procedure call in the reference, the client sends to the server a runtime buffer containing the arguments for a function and the function ID. (*Id.*, col. 8, ll. 35-36; col. 9, ll. 7-8.) The interpreter “utilizes the function ID...to retrieve an entry in the descriptor table having a description of the arguments.” (*Id.*, col. 9, ll. 15-18.) Thus, even if the function ID of the reference did teach or suggest the claimed handle, it is used to access a descriptor table created by the compiler, not to access a descriptor received from the sender with a first object.

Finally, because the descriptor table of the reference is created on the server side during compile time, the reference cannot teach or suggest storing the handle and the descriptor received from the sender with a first object by the recipient, as would be required to meet the elements of amended claim 1. Instead, as discussed above, the descriptor table and the function table of the reference are created by a compiler and stored on the server side.

At least for these reasons, McQuistan, taken alone or in combination with APA, fails to teach or suggest the steps of storing the handle and the descriptor received from the sender with the first object by the recipient and using the handle received by the recipient with the second object to access the descriptor received by the recipient with the first object. Because the references do not teach or suggest every element of claim 1 as amended, Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103 rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are nonobvious at least by virtue of their dependence from a non-obvious claim. These claims also contain additional elements that the Examiner has not shown are taught or suggested in the references.

For example, claim 2 recites an additional step of assigning, by the sender, the handle to the descriptor of the class, and claim 3 recites an additional step of assigning, by the recipient, the handle to the descriptor of the class. The Examiner has not shown that the references teach or suggest these claim elements. In the Office Action, the Examiner merely pointed to a general description of a remote procedure call and an argument stack in McQuistan. (6/22/05 Office Action, p. 4.) The argument stack of the reference is a list of arguments needed for a remote procedure call, so it is unclear how this could be a teaching of assigning a handle to a descriptor of a class of an object. If instead the Examiner meant to argue that the descriptor table or function ID of the reference teaches the claimed handle or class descriptor, the reference expressly teaches that these are created by a compiler during system creation (McQuistan, col. 5, II. 52-66), not assigned by a sender or by a recipient. Thus, for these additional

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reasons, the Examiner has not shown a teaching or suggestion of every element of claims 2 and 3.

Independent claims 5, 7, 15, and 17, as amended, recite some similar features to amended claim 1, including the use by a recipient of a handle received with a second object to access a class descriptor received with a first object. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed with respect to amended claim 1 above, the references, taken alone or together, fail to teach or suggest every element of amended claims 5, 7, 15, and 17, and Applicants request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103 rejections of claims 5, 7, 15, and 17, and the claims that depend therefrom.

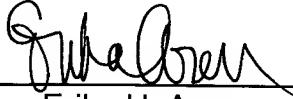
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Erika H. Arner
Reg. No. 57,540